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# ENJOYING JESUS ONLINE

## HOW WE USE SOCIAL MEDIA

It's a gift that so many people in our church are communicating and sharing life online. Social media can be a meaningful space to encourage one another, tell stories of God's faithfulness, ask good questions, and point people to Jesus. As we seek to enjoy Jesus and make disciples, here are a few guiding principles to help us navigate our presence online:

### Is @ you a Christian?

When we post, comment, or share, we aren't stepping out of our faith—we're carrying it with us. Our online presence is part of our discipleship. From time to time, it's worth asking: *Does what I post reflect the love, humility, and hope of Jesus?* (Ephesians 4:1–6)

### You're amongst friends—sometimes.

Social media often feels personal, but it's public—more like your front yard than your living room. Anyone can come across a post, photo, or comment without context, even years later, so what we share can live online far longer than we expect.

### Share wisely.

We love celebrating what God is doing in and through our church. When it comes to sharing updates, wisdom means passing along what's already been shared publicly, helping preserve unity, clarity, and trust.

### Distract or detract? Neither.

Most of us know what detracts from following Jesus, but even good intentions can distract. Before posting, ask whether it points to Christ or creates confusion. When in doubt, pause or seek counsel.

### Ask more than declare.

If you want to spur conversation about a topic, think about open-ended posts and questions, not opinions.

### Post with integrity.

We want to reflect integrity in all we do, including respecting copyright, giving credit, and being mindful of what we share. A good rule of thumb is to link to trusted sources rather than reposting content without context.



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## Check your settings.

Privacy settings exist for a reason, and platforms change often. It's wise to regularly review your settings and make sure they reflect your comfort level and intentions.

## Remember what we represent.

Even when we speak only for ourselves, our words shape how others perceive Christians—and sometimes how they perceive Jesus. Disclaimers help, but our tone matters more. Let's be slow to speak on behalf of others and quick to speak with humility and grace.

## Think before you share.

Retweeting, reposting, or sharing often communicates endorsement. Before sharing something, take time to read or watch it fully and consider whether it aligns with the heart of Christ. Adding thoughtful context can go a long way.

## When in doubt, go positive.

Whether responding to criticism, frustration, or disagreement, pausing before posting is wise. Sometimes the most Christlike response is restraint. If an interaction feels difficult, seek wise counsel and prayer—love and patience are never wasted.

## Use social media as a ministry.

Social media isn't just a place to promote things—it's an opportunity to encourage others, share God's Word, and point people toward Jesus.

## A Final Pause Before You Post

Before sharing, consider asking yourself:

- **Check your heart:** Does this reflect the character of Christ? (Ephesians 4:1–6)
- **Check your purpose:** Am I posting to build others up or simply to vent? (Ephesians 4:29)
- **Check the channel:** Is this the right space for this conversation, or would it be better face to face?

Your online presence is an extension of your discipleship. We're grateful for the ways you use your voice to encourage others and help people enjoy Jesus.